IX. *Two Chirurgical Queſtions, ſtated and anſwered by* John Douglas, *Surgeon, F. R. S.*

Q. I. WHether it is not poſſible in ſome Meaſure to relieve thoſe Perſons (who by reaſon of their great Age, bad Habit of Body, *&c.* cannot ſubmit to any of the great Operations for the Stone with tolerable hopes of Succeſs) by making an Artificial *Fiſtula* in the *Perinæum*?

A. That a great many Patients offer, both young and old, who are afflicted with the Stone in the Bladder, whom we cannot with any tolerable hopes of Succeſs, adviſe to ſubmit to the great Operations for the Stone, daily Experience ſhews. It is inhuman to cut them, and ſhews a very great Imperfection in our Art, to ſay we can give them no Relief. Is there no *Medium* yet found out between living in extream Miſery and ſubmitting to a deſperate Operation? Yes; *Thomas Fienús* about 125 Years ago, propoſed a Palliative Cure for ſuch Patients, where a radicative Cure could not be expected; an Operation which may be performed with ſafety on the moſt Ancient; the Wound is ſo ſmall, and the Parts cut of ſo little conſequence to Life. An Operation by which we can prevent or alleviate the moſt lamentable Effects of the Stone, *viz.* The total ſuppreſſion of Urine and the cutting Pains they endure in, and after making Water, *&c.* yet this Operation has been as little minded all this while by the *Hoſpital-*

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Lithotomiſts, as *Roſſet*'s moſt excellent Treatiſe before I introduced the Hypogaſtrick Section in 1719. Tho' I admire *Fienús*'s deſign in making this *Fiſtula*, yet I can by no means approve of his way of doing it.

It ought to be performed thus: Place the Patient as in *Marianus*'s Operation; paſs a Staff into the Bladder, then cut the Skin and Fat until you lay that Part of the *Urethra* bare, which reaches from the *proſtate Gland* to the Cavernous *Urethra*; then make a ſmall Inciſion into it with the point of your Knife; then withdraw the Staff, and paſs a ſmall flexible *Canula* into the Wound of the *Urethra*; then dreſs the Wound S. A. extract the *Canula*, clean it and introduce it again every Dreſſing, that ſo you may leave a *Fiſtula* in the room of the Wound.

Through this *Fiſtula* the Patient himſelf or any one about him, may eaſily paſs an Oiled Probe, and puſh the Stone back whenever he finds himſelf attack'd with a ſuppreſſion of Urine, or when the Stone preſſes hard againſt the *Sphincter*, when endeavouring to make Water, which otherwiſe could not be done without the Ceremony of ſending for, and ſtaying in miſery till a Surgeon comes to paſs the *Catheter*, which in ſuch caſes is not always to be done, without a great deal of Pain, and ſometimes Danger. By this *Fiſtula* we can alſo very eaſily inject any Liquor that may be thought proper either to prevent or allay the Inflammation of the Bladder, or cleanſe it from the Gravel, or any other ſort of filth that may collect there, by which the increaſe of the Stone will be prevented, *&c.*

In Females all thoſe advantages are obtain'd by the natural ſtraitneſs and ſhortneſs of the *Urethra*, whence they never ſuffer the tenth part that Males do; which is an inconteſtable evidence that when the Paſſage into

the Bladders of Males is made as ſtreight and near as ſhort (as is done by the forementioned *Fiſtula*) they will reap the ſame advantages by it.

Therefore Artificial *Fiſtula*'s in the *Perinæum* ought to be made for thoſe who by reaſon of their great Age, and bad Habit of Body, *&c.* cannot undergo any of the great Operations for the Stone, with any hopes of Succeſs.

Q. 2. Whether it is not poſſible to dilate the artificial *Fiſtula* in the *Perinæum* of Males, and the *Urethra* of Females with Spunge or Gentian-Tents gradually increaſed for ſome time to ſuch a width, that we may eaſily paſs a pair of *Forceps* into the Bladder, with which the Stone when ſmall may be extracted, and when large, or of an irregular Figure, broke, and the pieces extracted gradually and at different times, when they cannot be extracted at once, without fatiguing the Patient too much?

A. To prove that both theſe *Fiſtula*'s may be dilated to a ſufficient bigneſs by the means propoſed, (eſpecially, if the parts are frequently bathed in a *Semicupium* or otherwiſe, as the Operator ſhall think proper, and ſome warm Oyl injected into the *Fiſtula* every time the Tent is changed, (the better to ſupple and relax the parts,) I ſhall only make uſe of three Arguments, *viz.* One from common Experience in Analogous Caſes; Another from the Operations of Nature on the ſame Parts; And the third from Inſtances of this Operation being perform'd after the Method I propoſe. *1ſt*, Common Experience ſhews to what a great width Fiſtula's in all other parts of the Body, tho' very ſmall at firſt, may be dilated by Spunge or Gentian-Tents. *2dly*, Nature herſelf with-

without any Art has frequently perform'd this Operation on both Sexes; in Males who have been cut for the Stone after the old way, and had *Fiſtula*'s remained in *Perinæo*. It is often found that ſome conſiderable time afterwards, Stones of no ſmall ſize have appeared which had made their way thro' the Sphincter of the Bladder into the Membranous *Urethra*, and ſtuck near the Orifice of the *Fiſtula*, whence they were eaſily and ſafely extracted. I ſaw a Stone lately as big as a Pullet's Egg that was expelled from the Bladder of a young Woman without any help, as her Phyſician aſſured me, and ſhe had no inconveniency afterwards, which certainly would have happen'd if it had been extracted after the common violent Method. In the laſt *Philoſophical Tranſaction*, Dr. *Beard* of *Worceſter* gives an Account of a yet larger Stone, that paſſed after the ſame manner, but ſhe had the common inconveniency afterwards, *viz.* an Incontinency of Urine, which was owing more to the roughneſs than the bigneſs of the Stone, which had lacerated the Parts as in the common Operation, which might have been prevented had ſhe been aſſiſted in time as above.

3*dly*. Monſ. *Collet* in his *Traité de la Taille*, gives an Account of a Gentleman on whom he perform'd this Operation three different times, and extracted in all ten Stones. His Words are as follow:

Enfin, Monſ. Uſſon *etant hors de danger & ſa playe prête a ſe cicatriſer, prévoyant bien ce qui pourroit arriver dans la Suite, je lui conſeillai de tenir ſa playe ouverte, pour y entretenir ſeulement une petite Canule, qui dans l'occaſion donneroit une entiere liberté de faire Injection pour nettoyer la Veſſie de toutes les Immondices & pour qu'on pût enlever les nouvelles Pierres qui pourroient ſe former. Il prit ce parti, & il ſe trouva bien durant cin-*

cinque Années, quil a Vecu depuis avec aſſez de Santé Mais a trois differents repriſes, je me ſuis vû Obligè de lui tirer juſqu'a dix autres pierres qui ſ'etoient formées dans laVeſſie: une petite Tente d'eponge preparée miſe pendant quelques heures dans la Fiſtule à la place de la Canule me facilitoit l'Entrée d'une tres petite tennette. Monſ. Uſſon *s'habilloit dans ce Moment & il ſortoit pour aller par tout ou ſes Affaires l'appelloient.*

I know a Gentleman that now keeps a *Fiſtula in Perinæo* open for the very ſame reaſons.

Since then it is evident that *Fiſtula*'s in all parts of the Body are dilatable to a great width, ſince Nature is often able of her ſelf to dilate the very parts in diſpute, to a very extraordinary Degree; and ſince this very Operation I here propoſe has been ſucceſsfully performed three times on the ſame Perſon,

Therefore *Artificial Fiſtula*'s in Males and the *Urethra* of Females may be dilated ſo as to extract any Stone without cutting the Body of the Bladder, or lacerating any of the Parts.

N. B. This Operation will appear much leſs ſurprizing, if we conſider, that it is only dilating the Sphincter of the Bladder, *&c.* in a different manner from that daily done in *Marianus*'s Operation, *i. e.* By this Method the Parts are dilated gently and gradually, after being well bath'd and anointed, the better to relax them. Whereas in *Marianus*'s Operation they are dilated quickly and violently, and then the Stone, be it of what Largeneſs or Figure ſoever, is forcibly drawn out immediately; whence Contuſions, Lacerations, Hæmorrhages, Inflammations, Mortifications, *&c.*